

had fallen out of its own accord, and that the skin came off at a touch from the flesh. The visit of the doctor of Salerno had been secret, but the Chancellor suspected that poison had been given and called in, as a high authority, the Archbishop of Salerno, who was then at court, and who came with others skilled in medicine. They elicited the fact that Matthew's agent had given the patient a syrup made from roses (*syrupus rosatus*) contained in a glass vial. Thereupon, one of the visiting doctors stretched out his hand, and showed it covered with a terrible wound which he said had resulted from his pouring some of the syrup into the hollow of his palm, and rubbing it into the skin with his finger. On extending his hand again the imprudent man found the skin breaking into cracks, and then coming off altogether. A notary William also deposed, that one of Matthew's men had come frequently to him, asking him to point out the house in which Robert lay ill. The doctor from Salerno, being summoned, boldly declared that he had merely given the dead man a syrup of roses which he had obtained from an apothecary, Justus by name. But the latter asserted, " I have sold nothing to him the whole of this month." The result was a trial by

the Curia,
and the doctor of Salerno was
sentenced to the
forfeiture of all his property and thrust
into prison
under sentence of death; he could not,
however,
be induced to betray the instigators of
his crime.
The story throws a lurid light upon
the court